

2014

MUSC 298-01 Applied Jazz Brass

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Xavier University - Department of Music

Applied Jazz Brass Syllabus and Curriculum

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Course Description:

Jazz Brass lessons are designed to help each student reach his/her full potential as a musician. Emphasis is on the highest possible level of technical and musical achievement.

Course Objectives:

1. To learn the fundamentals of brass playing and jazz repertory
2. To develop critical listening skills
3. To develop the process of critical thinking and problem solving
4. To be able to perform all major, minor, whole tone, dominant 7th and chromatic scales and arpeggios as well as melodic patterns in all keys
5. To learn the proper "performance practice" of the various works and styles in the brass repertory
6. To exhibit proper etiquette in all rehearsals and concerts
7. To understand the principals of practicing and to form good practice habits
8. To understand each player's role within a brass section, and larger ensemble
9. To be able to execute the six basic skills on a brass instrument
 - Sound/Tone Quality
 - Attack
 - Flexibility
 - Range
 - Endurance
 - Articulation including accent, length of note, and multiple tonguing

Required Equipment

- Metronome, tuner, and access to a mirror
- Dictionary of Foreign Musical Terms - Christine Ammer (or equivalent text)
- Professional quality instrument
- Jazz Trumpet majors are required to own a professional quality flugelhorn asap.
- Pencil, required mutes, and valve oil/slide oil at all rehearsals and lessons

Lessons

A regular, thoughtfully applied musical practice routine is essential for improvement. For any serious brass student, four hours per day should be considered a minimum amount to practice. There is no maximum, but be sensible.

Practice should include the following areas:

- Prescribed daily routine of brass fundamentals and technical advancement
- Scales and transposition
- Jazz Patterns
- Transcription
- Technical materials
- Etudes - lyrical and technical
- Tune study/Learning
- Listening

Lesson assignments represent the above areas of study. The students will be expected to have work prepared from each of these categories as assigned each lesson.

Students are expected to report to their lesson warmed up.

Additional fundamental practice with Mr. Anklan may occur as needed at any point during the lesson. This additional work will be used as an opportunity to trouble shoot performance issues and tweak prescribed exercises for daily practice.

Attendance

Absence from any lessons will be excused for any university approved illness, family emergency or XU event. Prior notice is expected when possible. Every reasonable effort will be made to make up those lessons. Unexcused absences and those missed without prior notification will be graded as failing and not made up. It is the responsibility of the student to re-schedule make up lessons.

Grading:

Grades are assigned approximately every two weeks, with the intervening lesson used for addressing individual needs, interests of the student. Your grade is based upon performance, preparation, improvement and effort. As these terms can be somewhat subjective, it is in your best interest to know your grades as the term progresses. You are always able to check with me on the status of your studio grade during the semester.

Studio class participation, boards, and graded lessons will affect your semester grade. Your receptiveness to suggestions and required changes to any and all aspects of your playing will also affect your grade. Passing grades will be awarded to those students who have met all course requirements.

Grades:

- A Exceptional progress; always prepared
- A- Outstanding progress; usually well prepared
- B+ Very good progress; usually well prepared
- B Very good progress; preparation inconsistent
- B- Good progress; inconsistent preparation
- C+ Some progress made; inconsistent preparation
- C Little progress being made
- C- Below average progress being made; cause for concern
- D Little or no progress; consistently unprepared

Additional Requirements:

1. Two transcribed solos per semester.
2. Knowledge of various pedagogues, i.e. Arban, Schlossberg, Stamp, and Irons for additional points at any time in the semester.
3. Attendance is mandatory for all brass faculty and departmental recitals, masterclasses and concerts.
4. You must know all translations of foreign musical terms in all your music. Failure to do so will result in an automatic 10% reduction in that lesson's grade.
5. All metronome markings and breath marks must be marked in all music - you are responsible for knowing EVERY rehearsal tempo by number.
6. All jazz faculty performances and jazz faculty solo recitals are mandatory for jazz brass majors. Semester grade may be lowered for failing to attend these important concerts.